

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, BR, CI
SUBJECT: CHILE-BRAZIL RELATIONS

REF: SANTIAGO 2149

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF AFTERNOON APRIL 10, THREE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AFFIRMED THAT CHILEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION VISITING HERE WAS JUST THAT: ONE NOTED THAT VISIT HAD BEEN SET UP AS RESULT OF DECISION AT LAST YEAR'S MEETING OF CHILEAN-BRAZILIAN "SPECIAL COMMISSION", AND THAT CHILEANS HAD LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN BOTH MICROWAVE AND SATELLITE SYSTEMS. ONE NEWSPAPER HERE QUOTED GENERAL ARELLANO AS DECLARING THAT AS CHILE PASSING THROUGH HARD ECONOMIC TIMES, MICROWAVE SYSTEM THUS SEEMS MORE Viable FOR NEAR TERM.

2. TWO OF OFFICIALS CONTACTED IMPLIED THAT ARELLANO HAD NOT CONFINED HIMSELF TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ONE ADDING THAT CHILEANS SEEMED TO HAVE DEVELOPED PRACTICE IN WHICH HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY OFFICER COMES OVER ON SPECIFIC MISSION AND THEN RAISES BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS. BOTH OFFICIALS REPORTED ARELLANO'S CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE BEEN INCONCLUSIVE, HOWEVER, AND SAID BERNSTEIN (WHO HAS ALREADY LEFT) WAS HERE FOR TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FOREIGN

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MINISTER AND SECRETARY GENERAL. ONE SAID TOPICS INCLUDED CUBA

AND HUMAN RIGHTS ... "THINGS WHICH JOIN US". OTHER STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT NEITHER ARELLANO VISIT NOR THOSE OF BERNSTEIN AND BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE (SEE BELOW) RESULTED IN OR IMPLIED ADDITIONAL BRAZILIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE OR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS. SAME OFFICIAL ALSO VOLUNTEERED IMPRESSION THAT CHILEANS QUITE "FRUSTRATED" WITH BRAZIL BECAUSE THEY CLEARLY HAD EXPECTED BRAZIL TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, WHILE BRAZIL SYMPATHETIC, WANTS TO HELP AND IS HELPING, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RESTRICT AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AND CLOSENESS OF RELATIONSHIP, AT LEAST OVERT; CHILEANS (AT LEAST MILITARY), HOWEVER, HAVE HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING THIS. SAME OFFICIAL SAID GOB ATTEMPTING LEAD CHILEANS TO ACCEPT IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE (I.E. ON HUMAN RIGHTS), BUT BECAUSE CHILEANS "EXTREMELY SENSITIVE" ON POINT, MESSAGE IS DELIVERED CAREFULLY AND SUBTLY, WITH RESULT THAT BRAZILIANS NOT SURE IT GETTING ACROSS. (OFFICIAL WAS SUITABLY MODEST ABOUT BRAZIL'S OWN RECENT, CAUTIOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.)

3. REGARDING PRESENCE HERE OF BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE (WHO RETURNING TO SANTIAGO APRIL 11), ONE OFFICIAL CONFIDED THAT HE KIND OF TROUBLED-SHOOTER WHO WAS HERE TO MAKE REPORT FOLLOWING TRIP TO BOGOTA TO INVESTIGATE SUICIDE OF WIFE OF BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR THERE.

4. PLEASE TREAT INFO PARAS 2 AND 3 AS STRICTLY FYI.
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